

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus which can communicate to a plurality of output apparatuses that output an image, including a reference output apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting latest output characteristics data for calibration corresponding to each output apparatus of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of output apparatuses that output an image, ~~including a reference output apparatus;~~

calculating density correction data corresponding to ~~the other~~ another output apparatus on the basis of the latest output characteristics data ~~of the reference output apparatus and the output characteristics data~~ inputted for calibration of the ~~[[other]]~~ another output apparatus;

managing the ~~calculated~~ density correction data corresponding to each of the output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses calculated in said calculating step; and

updating the density correction data corresponding to the output characteristics of the ~~other~~ another output apparatus according to ~~the output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus~~ both the density correction data of the another output apparatus calculated in said calculating step and updated output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of setting a designation of one of the output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses as the reference output apparatus.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of setting a designation of plural output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses as the plurality of output apparatuses on the basis of an instruction of the user.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus which can communicate to a plurality of output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses that output an image, including a reference output apparatus, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit, adapted to input latest output characteristics data for calibration of each output apparatus of ~~[[said]]~~ the plurality of output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses that output an image, ~~including the reference output apparatus;~~

a correction processor, adapted to calculate density correction data corresponding to ~~the other~~ another output apparatus on the basis of the latest output characteristics data inputted for calibration of the another output apparatus, for use in a correcting process to be applied to image data by using the ~~calculated~~ density correction data calculated by said correction processor;

a management unit, adapted to manage the ~~calculated~~ density correction data corresponding to each of the output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses calculated by said correction processor; and

a revision unit, adapted to update the density correction data corresponding to the output characteristics of the ~~other~~ another output apparatus according to ~~the output characteristics data of the other output apparatus~~ both the density correction

data of the another output apparatus calculated by said correction processor and updated output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising image forming means for forming an image on the basis of the correction processed image data.[[.]]

Claim 9 (currently amended): A memory medium storing a program for an image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus which can communicate to a plurality of output apparatuses that output an image, including a reference output apparatus, wherein said program comprises codes for the steps of:

inputting latest output characteristics data for calibration corresponding to each of [[a]] the plurality of output apparatus apparatuses that output an image; ~~including a reference output apparatus;~~

calculating density correction data corresponding to ~~the other~~ another output apparatus on the basis of the latest output characteristics data ~~of the reference output apparatus and the output characteristics data inputted for calibration~~ of the [[other]] another output apparatus;

managing the ~~calculated~~ density correction data corresponding to each of the output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses calculated in said calculating step; and

updating the density correction data corresponding to the output characteristics of the [[other]] another output apparatus according to ~~the output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus~~ both the density correction data of the another output apparatus calculated in said calculating step and updated output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A computer program for an image processing method for controlling an image processing apparatus which can communicate to a plurality of output apparatuses that output an image, including a reference output apparatus, said computer program comprising codes for the steps of:

inputting latest output characteristics data for calibration corresponding to each of ~~[[a]]~~ the plurality of output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses that output an image, ~~including a reference output apparatus;~~

calculating density correction data corresponding to ~~the other~~ another output apparatus on the basis of the latest output characteristics data ~~of the reference output apparatus and the output characteristics data inputted for calibration~~ of the ~~[[other]]~~ another output apparatus;

managing the ~~calculated~~ density correction data corresponding to each of the output ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses calculated in said calculating step; and

updating the density correction data corresponding to the output characteristics of the ~~[[other]]~~ another output apparatus according to ~~the output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus~~ both the density correction data of the another output apparatus calculated in said calculating step and updated output characteristics data of the reference output apparatus.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A processing method in a print server, comprising the steps of:

administering density correction tables of plural printers including a reference printer and at least a second printer; and

updating the density correction table of the second printer in accordance with a change of color reproducibility of the reference printer and the density correction table based on latest density characteristics of the second printer included in the plural printers.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, wherein the reference printer is the printer which is selected from among the plural printers and set by a client computer connected to the print server.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, wherein each of the plural printers performs calibration of the density correction table according to a detected change of a state of each of the printers.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 13, wherein the update in said updating step is performed when there is no execution demand of the calibration.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 11, wherein the reference printer which is selected from among the plural printers is the printer in which image quality deterioration due to environmental variation is least.